

By PATRICK VERCOE

Bromley 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS hoisted themselves to the top of the Isthmian League table on Saturday by virtue of this slender triumph over the Kent side.

The fact that Wycombe occupy top spot is really all due to the Bromley club. Officials toiled nearly all the previous Thursday to remove five inches of snow from the ground, only to see their efforts rewarded by Bromley conceding a gift goal.

Credit should go to the Bromley officers, for the pitch was in remarkably good trim, with an ample covering of grass which was just a little soft on top.

Territorially, throughout the game, Wanderers held the upper hand and should have had more to show for their afternoon's work than just one goal.

Thirty free-kicks were conceded which seems to give the indication that the majority of exchanges were on the tough side. However, the vast amount of these infringements can be put down to referee Mr. A. H. Cooper, who appeared completely ignorant of the advantage law and continually halted players' progress.

Before Wycombe discovered their rhythm they were forced to live through a narrow escape when Tait slipped past four visiting defenders only to be foiled by a brilliant piece of smothering from Maskell.

Obviously, Wanderers, to a certain extent, were playing under the stress that two points would put them in the lead of the Isthmian table.

They must learn to live with this responsibility and accept the tensions and strains which are bound to follow in the next few vital weeks. Teams that survive the mental stress are half-way towards their target.

A large amount of Wanderers approach work was riddled with anxious passes and Julian Lailey chose an appropriate day to reach peak form tidying up,

MATCH DETAILS

Bromley: P. Higgins; J. Bridge, K. Sheehan; A. Bonney. P. Brown, C. Brown; A. Stonebridge, I. Wigham, T. Coppin, E. Jones, L. Tait. Sub: S. Scott.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; J. Lailey, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, P. Slater. Sub: V. Busby.

Corners—Wycombe 7, Bromley 9.

Free kicks (conceded)—Wycombe 12, Bromley 18.

Referee—Mr. A. H. Cooper.

with the minimum of fuss, at the back.

Tony Horseman, Barry Baker and Keith Samuels all went close with several good efforts but might have made sure had they steadied themselves.

Shortly after the break Horseman directed a smart header, from Slater's cross, towards the top left-hand corner which 'keeper Higgins was thankful to palm out.

Soon after the resumption Rundle was involved in a collision which left him limping for a few minutes and appeared troubled by his left ankle. Also, Lou Temel looked in pain when forced to turn quickly, as the result of a knock received early on in the opening period.

Only on rare occasions did Bromley look threatening. For the most part their mid-field work was scrappy and careless,

while the forward line showed no real sting.

It was just as well that Maskell was always alert, however, when he leaped full-length to turn aside a hopeful shot from Tait, which appeared to be deflected through a ruck of players.

From only their fourth corner of the game Wanderers netted the vital decider in the 66th minute. Slater took the flag-kick and floated the ball very close in towards the 'keeper. Just as Higgins appeared ready to take the cross out of the air he misjudged the flight and could only tip the ball down into Horseman's path, who gratefully accepted this golden chance from two yards.

Heartened by this success Wanderers went back into the hunt to capitalise on their lead. Rundle moved up for a corner and sent a powerful header flashing inches over the top.

Minutes later Worley sold Sheehan the dummy and hit a fierce cross-field drive from 20 yards which past inches wide of the top left-hand corner much to Higgins' relief.



TONY HORSEMAN . . .
got the vital winner